

Week Ending Friday, October 14, 2005

**Statement on Congressional Action
on Homeland Security Legislation**

October 7, 2005

I applaud the Congress for its work on the homeland security legislation. The resources provided by this bill will help us protect our borders, upgrade explosives detection technology in our airports, address radiological and nuclear threats, and target security funding to areas with the greatest need. The legislation will help make our homeland more secure.

NOTE: This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

**Proclamation 7941—Fire Prevention
Week, 2005**

October 7, 2005

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Each year, fires kill or injure thousands of Americans and destroy or damage billions of dollars worth of property. Many of these fires might have been prevented by taking appropriate precautions and following safety guidelines. During Fire Prevention Week, we highlight the need to prevent and prepare for fires, and we raise awareness of fire safety. We also honor our Nation's brave firefighters.

Each year, the National Fire Protection Association and the Department of Homeland Security's United States Fire Administration raise awareness during Fire Prevention Week. This year's theme is "Use Candles with Care." Although the number of home fires has declined in recent years, the number of fires caused by candles has risen dramatically. Fortunately, the risk of candle fires can be lessened by following a few basic guidelines, including never leaving candles

unattended, keeping them away from flammable items, and always keeping them out of reach of children.

While many fires can be prevented by following precautions, families should still be prepared for the possibility of a fire by having working smoke alarms on every level of their homes. Families should also have a fire escape plan in place to help get everyone out of the home safely in case of an emergency.

When fires occur, Americans depend on our courageous firefighters to be first on the scene and to save lives. Each year, more than 100 of our country's firefighters die in the line of duty. Americans are grateful for the brave men and women who put themselves in harm's way to rescue and protect their fellow citizens. During Fire Prevention Week, we recognize these heroes and honor their sacrifice.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 9 through October 15, 2005, as Fire Prevention Week. On Sunday, October 9, 2005, in accordance with Public Law 107-51, the flag of the United States will be flown at half-staff on all Federal office buildings in honor of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service. I invite the people of the United States to participate in this observance by flying our Nation's flag over their homes at half-staff on this day, to mark this week with appropriate programs and activities, and to renew efforts throughout the year to prevent fires and their tragic consequences.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this seventh day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:18 a.m., October 12, 2005]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on October 13. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Proclamation 7944—Columbus Day, 2005

October 7, 2005

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Christopher Columbus' journey across uncharted waters in 1492 changed the course of history. Overcoming many obstacles, the explorer from Genoa pursued a dream that carried him to the "New World" and helped launch an age of exploration, leading to the founding of new countries across the Americas. Through the years, the desire to discover and understand has been a part of our Nation's character, and Columbus' spirit has inspired generations of explorers and inventors. On Columbus Day, we honor Christopher Columbus and the vision that carried him on his historic voyage.

Since 1934, when President Roosevelt first proclaimed the national holiday, our Nation has observed Columbus Day to mark the moment when the Old World met the New. As we recognize Columbus' legacy, we also celebrate the contributions of Italian Americans to our Nation's growth and well-being. Americans of Italian descent are musicians and athletes, doctors and lawyers, teachers and first responders. They are serving bravely in our Armed Forces. From our country's first days, the sons and daughters of Italy have brought honor to themselves and enriched our national life.

More than 500 years after Columbus' journey, we are honored that the Italian Republic is among our closest friends and strongest allies. On Columbus Day, we celebrate this strong bond between America and Italy.

In commemoration of Columbus' journey, the Congress, by joint resolution of April 30, 1934, and modified in 1968 (36 U.S.C. 107), as amended, has requested that the President

proclaim the second Monday of October of each year as "Columbus Day."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 10, 2005, as Columbus Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities. I also direct that the flag of the United States be displayed on all public buildings on the appointed day in honor of Christopher Columbus.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this seventh day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:19 a.m., October 12, 2005]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on October 13. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Proclamation 7945—General Pulaski Memorial Day, 2005

October 7, 2005

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

America's freedom has been achieved with great sacrifice. In the Revolutionary War, General Casimir Pulaski gave his life for the cause of freedom. Today, we honor his selfless contributions and heroic service.

Born in Poland, Casimir Pulaski fought Russian oppression in his homeland. In 1776, Benjamin Franklin met Pulaski in France and successfully recruited him to join the American fight for liberty. In America, Pulaski distinguished himself at the Battle of Brandywine and was commissioned as a Brigadier General by General George Washington. After raising his own legion, a special infantry and cavalry division that included many foreign-born troops, he helped defend Charleston, South Carolina, before being mortally wounded at the siege of Savannah in 1779.